IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

) Attorney Docket No.: F-300

Martin Sting, et al.) Group Art Unit: 3651

Serial No.: 09/400,426) Examiner: J. Dillon Jr.

Filed: September 21, 1999) Date: March 11, 2002

Title: CHARGING APPARATUS

<u>AMENDMENT</u>

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is filed to provide remarks in support of the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed concurrently herewith.

REMARKS

It was noted that in the "Reasons for Allowance" stated by the Examiner that certain features were considered to be missing from the prior art references of record.

Applicants request that the Examiner further consider the present application in view of those "Reasons for Allowance" and to consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith.

If the Examiner should have any questions, he is kindly urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Cummings

Reg. No. 46,650 Attorney for Applicants

Telephone (203) 924-3934

PITNEY BOWES INC. Intellectual Property and **Technology Law Department** 35 Waterview Drive P.O. Box 3000 Shelton, CT 06484-8000

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231,

on March 11, 2002

Date of Deposit

<u>Denise Hayes</u> Name of Rep.

March 11, 2002

Date